

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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RSC-01 USIA-15 OIC-04 L-03 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10

SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-04 OMB-01 AID-20

EB-11 DRC-01 /198 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2787

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UWMISSION USUN 9896

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PARIS FOR NESCO

EO 11652 NA

AGS AORG

SUBJ GENEVA GROUP-WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

REFS A) GENEVA 2780; B) STATE 218357

1. WORKING PARTY HELD TWO SESSIONS WITH, RESPECTIVELY, HANS DRUCKS (DIRECTOR IOB SECRETARIAT) AND ITU D/DG BUTLER (CHAIRMAN OF IOB REVIEW PANEL) TO DISCUSS PROGRESS OF IN-DEPTH STUDY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS WHICH, REPORTEDLY AS A RESULT OF DECISION REACHED BY ACC'S PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO IOB SECRETARIAT WITH INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT STUDY'S RESPONSIVENESS TO ECOSOC DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. DRUCKS AND BUTLER CONFIRMED THAT AFTER REVIEWING IOB SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT OF FIRST THREE CHAPTERS OF STUDY, PREP COM HAD DECIDED THAT ECOSOC DECISION WAS TOO DEMANDING AND THAT IT INVOLVED OTHER INTER-AGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES BESIDES IOB. ACCORDINGLY, THE REVIEW PANEL AT A MEETING

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IN GENEVA ON OCTOBER 31, TOLD SECRETARIAT TO LIMIT STUDY TO

(A) STATEMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION, (B) RESUME OF IOB ACTIVITIES TO DATE, (C) A PROJECTION OF WORK AMOUNTING MORE OR LESS TO A CONTINUATION OF IOB'S PRESENT ACTIVITIES. UNDER THIS CONCEPT THE ECOSOC REQUEST FOR A "PLAN CONTAINING A SEQUENCE OF STEPS TO DEVELOP COMPATIBLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS INVOLVING COMMON CONCEPTS ETC." AND NOTING THAT FUNDAMENTAL TO THESE CONCEPTS SHOULD BE "INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS OF GOVERNMENTS...DECISION MAKING PROCESS" ETC. WOULD NOT BE ANSWERED (IN EFFECT, WOULD BE IGNORED).

3. WORKING PARTY REPS EXPRESSED TO DRUCKS AND BUTLER THE HOPE THAT IN-DEPTH STUDY WOULD BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ECOSOC REQUEST. BUTLER AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT STUDY BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE PLAN OF ACTION CALLED FOR BY ECOSOC EVEN THOUGH ITS IMPLEMENTATION MIGHT TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO REALIZE. HE (AND DRUCKS AS WELL) STRONGLY URGED WORKING PARTY TO MEET WITH MR FOBES (D/DG OF UNESCO) WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF IOB, IT BEING ANTICIPATED THAT FOBES WOULD BE IN GENEVA DURING FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER. WORKING PARTY AGREED THAT A MEETING WITH FOBES WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

4. MISSION NOW INFORMED THAT FOBES, WHO HAS RECEIVED MESSAGE URGING MEETING WITH WORKING PARTY FROM BUTLER, WOULD BE PLEASED TO DO SO BUT THE ANTICIPATED SABBENCE FROM PARIS OF THE UNESCO DG HAS PRECLUDED FOBES VISIT TO GENEVE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. WE CONVINCED MEETING OF WORKING PARTY WITH CHAIRMAN OF IOB WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND UNLESS DEPT OR UNESCO SEE OBJECTION WE PLAN UNDERTAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH LATTER FOR APPOINTMENT WITH FOBES IN PARIS FOR TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF WORKING PARTY HOPEFULLY TO TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER. OTHER MEMBERS OF WORKING PARTY SHARE MISSION'S VIEWPOINT OF IMPORTANCE OF SUCH MEETING AND AT LEAST ONE MEMBER, CANADA, HAS ALREADY OBTAINED OTTAWA BACKING FOR SENDING COUNSELLOR OF ITS GENEVA MISSION TO PARIS TO ACCOMPANY US CHAIRMAN. BASSIN

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